<u>REMARKS</u>

Applicant has filed the present Supplemental Amendment and Response in reply to the outstanding Final Official Action of December 27, 2005, and Applicant believes the Amendment and Response to be fully responsive to the Official Action for the reasons set forth below in greater detail.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 7-26. Claim 6 has allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claim 6 into independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 1 and all intervening claims. Applicant submits that Claim 6 is in patentable form. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdrawn the objection to Claim 6. Claims 20, 24 and 25 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

Applicant notes that Claims 1-5 and 27-31 have been cancelled herewith. This cancellation is without any prejudice to the subject matter of the cancelled claims being introduced in a later filed related application. Applicant maintains its position that Claims 1-5 and 27-21 are patentably distinct from the cited references based upon reasons identified in its response dated February 27, 2006.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, the Applicant believes that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and henceforth respectfully solicits the Examiner to allow the application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite the allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call

the undersigned, Applicant's attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

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SW:ae